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THE VICEROY'S HOUSE,
New Delhi, 16h March 1931.

MY DEAR MAHARAJA,

I am afraid I have taken some time to reply to Your Highness' letter of 25th February regarding the important matter of the payment of tribute by the Indian States. It is, as Your Highness will realise, a question on which I have wished to study fully the whole case.

I feel however that at this stage it is still difficult for me to give any detailed or precise reply to Your Highness' letter. A federal scheme would certainly seem to imply a new and more uniform distribution of burdens, and I am deeply gratified to learn that Your Highness is already prepared to co-operate upon such a basis. I think it is also true, as Your Highness suggests, that the general principles of federal finance will have to be worked out in consultation with the States, and made known to all concerned, before any State is called upon to make a final decision, as to whether or not it should adhere to the Federation. But the problems involved are so numerous and complicated, that I fear there is no chance of their examination being completed before my departure from India, nor should I, I think, be justified at this juncture in expressing any definite opinion as to how the principles, which have yet to be worked out, will affect the case of Your Highness' State. I may however express the confident hope that they will be such as to enable Mysore to enter the Federation on terms of honourable equality with other units.

With all good wishes and kindest regards to Your Highness,

Yours sincerely,
IRWIN.

COLONEL HIS HIGHNESS
MAHARAJA SIR SRI KRISHNARAJA WADIYAR BAHADUR, G.C.S.I., G.B.E.,
Maharaja of Mysore.